

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Previously Presented) A tailgate assembly, comprising:
a tailgate;
a sidewall; and
a torsion spring having a first leg attached to the sidewall and a second leg attached to the tailgate, such that the torsion spring is actuated in a winding direction as the tailgate is opened.
2. (Original) A tailgate assembly according to Claim 1, wherein either the first leg, the second leg, or both legs of the torsion spring are removably attached.
3. (Original) A tailgate assembly according to Claim 1, wherein the torsion spring comprises about 2.5 coils.
4. (Original) A tailgate assembly according to Claim 1, wherein the thickness of the torsion spring is at least about 3/16 of an inch.
5. (Original) A tailgate assembly according to Claim 1, wherein the width of the torsion spring is at least about 3/16 of an inch.
6. (Original) A tailgate assembly according to Claim 1, wherein the torsion spring comprises a high-carbon steel.
7. (Previously Presented) A tailgate assembly according to Claim 6, wherein the high-carbon steel comprises about 1 percent carbon.
8. (Previously Presented) A tailgate assembly according to Claim 6, wherein the high-carbon steel comprises from about 0.96 to about 0.99 percent carbon.
9. (Previously Presented) A tailgate assembly according to Claim 6, wherein the high-carbon steel has a hardness from about 42 to about 46 Rockwell C.
10. (Previously Presented) A tailgate assembly according to Claim 6, wherein the high-carbon steel has a hardness from about 43 to about 45 Rockwell C.

11. (Original) A tailgate assembly, comprising:
 - a tailgate;
 - a sidewall;
 - a rod connected to the tailgate, such that the tailgate pivots about the rod to open and close; and
 - a torsion spring having coils around the rod and having a first leg attached to the sidewall and a second leg attached to the tailgate, such that the torsion spring is actuated in a winding direction as the tailgate is opened.
12. (Original) A tailgate assembly according to Claim 11, wherein either the first leg, the second leg, or both legs of the torsion spring are removably attached.
13. (Original) A tailgate assembly according to Claim 11, wherein the torsion spring comprises about 2.5 coils.
14. (Original) A tailgate assembly according to Claim 11, wherein the thickness of the torsion spring is at least about 3/16 of an inch.
15. (Original) A tailgate assembly according to Claim 11, wherein the width of the torsion spring is at least about 3/16 of an inch.
16. (Original) A tailgate assembly according to Claim 11, wherein the torsion spring comprises a high-carbon steel.
17. (Previously Presented) A tailgate assembly according to Claim 16, wherein the high-carbon steel comprises about 1 percent carbon.
18. (Previously Presented) A tailgate assembly according to Claim 16, wherein the high-carbon steel comprises from about 0.96 to about 0.99 percent carbon.
19. (Previously Presented) A tailgate assembly according to Claim 16, wherein the high-carbon steel has a hardness from about 42 to about 46 Rockwell C.
20. (Previously Presented) A tailgate assembly according to Claim 16, wherein the high-carbon steel has a hardness from about 43 to about 45 Rockwell C.
21. (Canceled)

22. (Canceled)

23. (Canceled)

24. (Previously Presented) A tailgate assembly, comprising:

a tailgate having a hole;

a tailgate support having a hole; and

a torsion spring having a first leg inserted into the hole of the tailgate support and a second leg inserted into the hole of the tailgate, such that the torsion spring is actuated in a winding direction as the tailgate is opened.

25. (Currently Amended) A tailgate assembly according to Claim 24, wherein the tailgate assembly support is a sidewall.